

The Southeast News

OF, BY AND FOR CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCHES

VOLUME VI - NUMBER 4

FEBRUARY, 1958

One Great Hour Of Sharing

One Great Hour of Sharing is the special appeal made in most of our churches each spring in behalf of the Relief and Reconstruction Program of the Congregational Christian Service Committee. Last year One Great Hour gifts supplied more than one-third of the Service Committee's receipts for the year. The suggested time for observing One Great Hour this year is March 16.

This will be the 10th annual observation of One Great Hour of Sharing, in which we join with many Protestant and Eastern Orthodox churches in America. Your contributions insure our participation in the large interdenominational program which includes providing emergency food, clothing, medicines and other supplies; for health and nutrition programs; for rehabilitation of refugees; and other ministrations. One Great Hour gifts also support the Service Committee's own projects in Korea, Taiwan, Lebanon, Greece, Italy, France, Germany and the United States.

Sample packets of One Great Hour promotional material have already been mailed to all of our ministers. These materials, available from the Missions Council, include posters, a glossy photograph for publicity use, special envelopes and offering boxes, a folder describing filmstrips on relief and reconstruction work, a distributive folder and colorful cartoon story for children entitled "The Wait-A-Minute-man." Order from Missions Council, 287 Fourth Ave., New York 10, N. Y.

Featured in the One Great Hour packet is the new printed folder entitled "Ministering in His Name," which is available in quantity for distribution in your church. Pictures and brief notes tell a vivid story of the work of your Service Committee in many lands. Plan ahead; order materials now!

Fourth Annual Meeting SEC Pilgrim Fellowship

The annual meeting of the SEC Pilgrim Fellowship will be held March 15 and 16 in the United Church of La-Grange, Ga. Outstanding leaders have been obtained both from outside the SEC area and from SEC ministers, adults and young people.

Dr. Brayant Drake, secretary of the Department of Higher Education, and with responsibilities in the United Student Fellowship, will bring the Sunday morning message and lead the USEF workshop.

The Rev. John Graves, Professor of Religion at Elon College, will be the keynote speaker on Saturday and lead the workshop for adult advisors, ministers and those interested in working with young people.

Miss Isabel Hemingway, medical missionary to China and Turkey, who participated in the Church Vocations Conference, will talk on missions and lead the Missions workshop.

Other adult leaders will be Supt. James H. Lightbourne Jr., Dr. Paul R. Reynolds, Dr. A. R. Van Cleave, Rev. Edw. Driscoll, Rev. Raymond Berry, Rev. Sam D. Nelson Jr., Rev. Charles Bell, Paul Anthony, Rev. Warren Blankenship, Rev. Richard Fraser, Rev. Harold Henderson, Rev. Herbert Long, Mrs. J. M. Gager Jr., and Rev. Walter Crosby.

PF officers are V. R. Dobson, president; Frank Little, vice-president; Peggy Hammock, corresponding secretary; Patsy Yancey, recording secretary; Ben Cooper, treasurer.

Information on program has gone out to ministers, church clerks, and to young people and advisors on the mailing list. Select your delegates and get your registrations in as soon as possible so the host group can make adequate plans.

SUC Plans Expansion

Realizing the emergency situation in classroom facilities at SUC, the Board of Trustees has called for an immediate launching of a nation-wide campaign for funds to construct three new buildings on the campus. A drive for \$110,000 to construct a Library, Arts building and the President's Home will begin at once. Due to the 30% increase in enrollment, some classes are meeting in lounges of the dormitories and the college auditorium. The campaign is the first phase of the \$1,000,000 drive announced last April.

The president's home will be a two-story structure with four bedrooms, expected to cost about \$20,000.

The Library building plans, drawn by Evan M. Terry of Birmingham, call for a two-story building approximately 45' X 100' with seating room in the reading area for 150 students. Stack room facilities will be planned for 35,000 volumes. The building will have three seminar rooms, a music room with listening studios and three offices for staff personnel. Expected cost will be \$50,000.

The success of the new programs in Basic Engineering and Creative Arts has accelerated the needs for the Arts building. Architect Terry's plans call for a two-floor building, 117' X 55', which will have a room for metal crafts, an art room, a drafting room, two classrooms and an office on the upper floor. The lower floor will house the college shop with storage for equipment and tools. Office space will be available in this lower area. Expected cost will be about \$40,000.

It is the sincere hope of the Trustees that the response of the nation to these urgent needs will be significant and that the buildings will be ready for the 1958-59 academic year.

THOSE WHO WALK ALONE

(Matthew 26: 30-46, 69-75)

"Who Walk Alone" is the story of an American soldier in the Phillipines, almost ready to return home when leprosy strikes. Instead of a joyful journey homeward, to friends and loved ones, he takes a lonely journey to a leper colony, "alone!"

Is not this symbolic of those who walk ahead of the crowd, with God? They, too, often must "Walk Alone." Consider our Master that last Thursday evening in the Upper Room, in the Garden! All the disciples had said, "We'll die with you rather than leave you alone." Instead, one betrayed him, ten fled into the night, and the twelfth stayed far behind, just inside the gate. Yet, when Peter's opportunity came to witness for his Master, he cursed and swore that he had never seen him. During his ministry Jesus' closest friends and family tried to bring him home, because he "was beside himself." (Mark 3:21). How that must have hurt! Not the crown of thorns, or the nails; but the pain of friends and trusted colleagues who betrayed, denied, deserted, swearing they had never known him. So "Jesus walked this lonesome valley," alone.

One of the ironies of history is that those who walk AHEAD of the crowd, with God, hang on the same crosses, burn at the same stake, rot in the same prisons as those who lag BEHIND — the robber, the adulterer, the murderer. Still more ironic is the fact that those who walk AHEAD are considered more dangerous than those who lag BEHIND, so the crowd chooses BARABBAS, and crucifies JESUS. So it is in every generation: honor the prophets of yesterday, build shrines to them, while ex-

cuting those who "walk alone" with God in the present. (Matthew 23: 29ff).

Have you ever stopped to reflect on where our generation, you and I, would be today if Jesus, Stephen, Socrates, Copernicus, John Huss, Martin Luther had not walked AHEAD of the crowd and public opinion? If Jesus had walked with the public opinion of His day, would we call him Lord, Master, Savior?

Then, too, if Jesus should come to your church and community, or mine, next Sunday morning, would he walk with public opinion today? Would he walk with you and me? Or, would we make Him "Walk Alone" again?

We are living in a day of decision! As F. S. C. Northrop puts it, "Ours is a paradoxical world. The achievements which are its glory threaten to destroy it." The marvels of science, which could erase hunger and nakedness, and "usher in the Kingdom," could blow us into oblivion before this is printed. And the best "assurance" our leaders can give us is "mass retaliation" — if they kill a million of us, we'll kill two million of them. If that is our HOPE, then we are already doomed.

Our danger does not stem from the atom, or hydrogen, or cobalt. These are God's gifts to Man for his comforts and needs. Our generation is in danger because of injustice, hatred, ill-will and prejudice; which breed fear and suspicion.

Listen to a foreign student: "I went to the United States with great hopes. I expected to find there students who would understand the tragedy of my people. But I returned sadly disillusioned. I am convinced that most people in the United States have no idea

whatsoever of the social revolution in which we are caught today; worse still, they have little interest in learning about it.

"I found your churches much concerned about beautiful worship, new buildings, even spiritual revivals; but hardly anyone seemed to realize that Christian Faith has any relation to racial, social and economic problems.

"I heard Americans talk all the time about the freedoms they want us to have; but no one seemed much concerned about the injustices we can no longer bear.

"I was not a communist when I went to the States, nor am I one today. But I have returned convinced that the communist is the only one who understands our problems, and if you Americans continue on the road you are now following, many of my people will turn to communism in despair." (From *Encounter With Revolution*, Shaull, p. vii.)

As Christians, are we aware of the 'revolution' in which "God is Marching On?" A "revolution" in which God is again "Shaking the earth, so that those things which cannot be shaken might remain?" (Hebrews 12: 26-7). As we move toward Good Friday, we are concerned about the injustices and indignities which colonial and exploited peoples "can no longer bear"? The same injustices and indignities which carried Jesus to the cross!

"Peter, could you not watch with Me one hour?" "He that would follow after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross, and follow me."

—Carl J. Landes, Chaplain
Southern Union College

DID YOU KNOW

Rev. Wm. M. McCullars accepted a call to West Point-Bethel Church.

Rev. Harold W. Heckman, of Livingston, Mont., has accepted a call to Pleasant Hill Community Church and will direct the Community Center.

Dr. and Mrs. Paul Reynolds have another grandchild, Laura Louise, born Jan. 14.

Lowell E. Kennedy of Headland, Ala., has been granted an Honor Scholarship to Southern Union College.

Vernon L. Carter received the "Citizen of the Year 1957" award from the Wadley Kiwanis Club. The plaque was presented by the newly installed president, Douglas Wasson, SUC vice-president.

Rev. Earl Hand accepted a call to Douglas First Church, moving there

with his family on Feb. 4.

Mrs. Wofford C. Timmons, formerly of Southern Pines, is now serving as hostess in Metcalf House, Oberlin College, Oberlin, Ohio.

Rev. A. C. Nelson accepted a call to serve Lanett Huguley Church, moving there the first week in February.

Elon College Church building program is expected to begin in June, to cost \$145,000.

Echoes Of Southern Union

Writing about Southern Union is really a joy for there is so much going on at the present time.

The enrollment for the Winter Quarter now stands at 225 which is the highest in the history of the school for this period of year.

All dormitories, two of men and one for women, as well as all the other college-owned buildings, are full of people — students and faculty members.

The new Dean of Students, Henry Diehl and his wife, are about to get into a private house, after enjoying the hospitality of Mr. and Mrs. John Harris; fine citizens of Wadley and supporters of the college.

Every available classroom meeting space is being used, including the office of the Dean and the President when they are not on hand.

Our Vice-president in charge of public relations and promotion, Mr. Douglas Wasson, was the guiding factor in the recent organization of an Alabama Junior College Council, the initial meeting being held at Alabama College, Montevallo, Ala., with Dr. Edmund J. Gleazer Jr., President of the American Association of Junior Colleges, as the main speaker.

The Southern Union Quartet and Girls Trio furnished the special music for the meeting which was good and thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Ground has finally been broken for building of the President's new home, his family remaining in Kentucky until the house is completed. Mr. Vernon Carter, secretary of the college Board of Trustees, was in charge of pouring the cement foundations and was aided by some of our excellent working students.

Time and space do not permit a report of the activities of the faculty in and around Wadley, especially on Sundays. Every Sunday most of the faculty goes out to nearby churches to preach, after teaching all week. This is a valuable service to all concerned.

Our first request: Pray for us, come to see us and support us in every possible way. We'll all be glad you did.

Gratefully yours,
Walter A. Graham, President
Southern Union College

Ford Grant To Berea

Announcement has been made by the Ford Foundation of a grant for \$250,000 to Berea College in Kentucky for the purpose of making a region-wide study of conditions in the Appalachian Mountains. Headquarters of the study will be at Berea College, which for 103 years has been dedicated to the mountain people.

A committee of 19 has been set up to make the study which included one official representative of Berea College, one representative of the Council of the Southern Mountains, one representative of each of ten denominations in the mountain region, and seven members elected at large. This committee is incorporated under the laws of Kentucky. Dr. W. D. Weatherford, vice-chairman of the Board of Trustees of Berea College, has been elected chairman.

Seventeen areas of study have been blocked out including economics, industrialization, health, education, religion, etc. A central staff of four workers will direct the study — including Dr. Weatherford of Berea, Director of Administration; Dr. Howard Beers of the University of Kentucky, Director of General Research; and Dr. Robert Vance of the University of North Carolina, Research Consultant. This staff will be assisted by a representative from each of the seven state universities located in the Southern Appalachian region. Also there will be 14 field workers from the state universities who are graduate candidates for the Ph. D. The study will probably take from two to two and a half years of time and full reports will be published in a volume. In addition, a number of monographs published in rather large numbers will be prepared on individual aspects of the study. These will be used in implementing the results of the study.

The purpose of the whole study will be to assemble adequate, accurate and comparable facts on which the various agencies working in the mountains may base a forward-looking and advanced program. The condition and needs of the churches will be a central element in this study.

Sixth Annual Meeting Of The Southeast Convention

The annual meeting of the Southeast Convention of Congregational Christian Churches, Inc., will be held this year on Saturday and Sunday, April 19 and 20, at the Lanett Congregational Christian Church in Lanett, Ala.

The guest speaker will be Dr. Ray Gobbins, director of the Council for Social Action of the Board of Home Missions.

Information on the program will go out to ministers and church clerks in March, after the Program Committee meets on Feb. 24 to make final plans. Members of the Program Committee are Moderator Odell Yancey, Supt. James H. Lightbourne Jr., Mrs. Ed Albright, Rev. John D. Schofield (host pastor), Herman D. Cook (general chairman of local church arrangements), and one other member from the host church to be named.

Each church is entitled to send three voting delegates, and as many visiting delegates as it wishes. Each minister of the SEC is entitled to vote.

The Nominating Committee was elected by the Board of Directors on Jan. 14, and consists of Rev. Charles Bell, chairman, with Rev. Kermit Harris, Mrs. James T. McAdams, Mrs. J. M. Gager Jr., Rev. Robert Shelton, Rev. Herbert Long, Supt. James H. Lightbourne Jr., and Moderator Odell Yancey.

This committee will prepare a slate of officers and committee members to be presented to delegates. Nominations from the floor will also be in order.

It is hoped that church congregations will begin now to elect delegates.

E. S. Fetner Ordained

On Jan. 5 at the Mt. Zion Church near Roanoke, Ala., the East Alabama Association held a Council of Ordination for E. S. Fetner. The Rev. A. C. Nelson presided.

The ordination sermon was preached by the Rev. Carroll W. Lewis, and other ministers participating were the Reverends A. C. Nelson, John Schofield, James H. Lightbourne Jr., Charles W. Bell, and Olin Sheppard.

The certificate of ordination was presented by H. Paul Beard, secretary of the association.

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STAFF

Rev. Jas. H. Lightbourne, Jr. Editor
Mrs. Ed A. Albright Managing Editor
Rev. Annie Campbell Photographer
Mrs. Jettie Logan Promotion

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"Thy Will Be Done . . ."

In the "Church News" this month there is a report from our Pilgrim Church in Chattanooga of a luncheon study group which met daily for one week to study the Lord's Prayer, in order to find personal inspiration and challenge.

Word has just come to us that this project was so meaningful that the group will continue, and will next study the Sermon on the Mount.

When I first read about the study group it seemed such an excellent idea that I tried it myself, only without benefit of the study books and group discussion — which, I am sure, made the study more interesting and rewarding.

The personal inspiration that came to me was from the petition "Thy will be done." For me, and, I believe, for most people, this has seemed to mean a passive acceptance of circumstances and events over which we have no control, such as illness and death. But now I see that it can also have an active and positive meaning — as it must have had for the disciples and missionaries who went out to do God's will against ignorance, pagan superstition, and even torture and death.

How often do we really strive to know God's will for us? During Lent is an appropriate time to do some in-

Expressing Our Convictions (A Responsibility)

In a democracy all citizens share responsibility for the actions of the government. When good people do not take part in making decisions on public issues the way is open for selfish men to make decisions to their own benefit. As Christians we are called to love God with all our heart and soul and strength; and our neighbors as ourselves. To love our neighbors we must be concerned about the laws and institutions which affect their lives, as well as treat them as ourselves in face-to-face relationships. Many of the decisions which affect us most directly are made by city councils and mayors, by state legislatures and governors, by Congress and the President. These representatives of the people look to us for guidance and support as they decide issues of great consequence for every American, and frequently for every human being on earth. It is a part of our calling as Christians to express our convictions to them as they make decisions in our behalf.

— Fern Babcock

New Frontiers Of Faith

If the church is to conquer the new frontier of man's relationship to man, it must establish and support agencies of social action. Churches must form committees to consider the issues and to speak out when the lives of men are imperiled. With courage to face controversy, with access to information, with guidance for cooperative action, church members can face the new frontiers in family, school, community, government and mass communication. It is here that the church must communicate the Gospel, the only Good News which will meet the needs of man on the new frontier.

— Ray Gibbons

ner searching. And if we do really know God's will, how many of us will dare to follow it?

And what is God's will for the world? Is it war and famine and oppression? Or is it "Peace and Goodwill" and "The Brotherhood of Man?"

Perhaps a study of the Sermon on the Mount will answer these questions.

— MGA

Church Members Urged To Study Legislative Bills

A legislative committee of the Georgia Council of Churches has called on church people and church groups to study carefully several bills expected to be brought before the legislature.

The Council committee has made no specific recommendations thus far but has met twice to discuss the bills in their proposal state. Dr. Dow Kirkpatrick, pastor of St. Mark Methodist Church, Atlanta, is chairman of the committee.

The bills committee members studied, and are recommending church people to study and voice opinions on, are those pertaining to the following matters:

1. Mental Illness: commitment laws, hospital facilities for the mentally ill; psychiatric services; and chaplaincy.

2. Juvenile detention homes and family courts: proposed legislation would set up a state-wide system of Juvenile Detention homes and a state-wide system of family courts — one bill pertains to probation services to youthful offenders.

3. Censorship of literature (Obscenity): The Georgia State Literature Commission and the publishing industry are working on a proposed amendment which would empower courts to enjoin distributors of obscenity.

4. Marriage laws: legislation would prevent "quicky" marriages.

The Georgia Council of Churches, representing nine Christian communions comprising over 500,000 members, urges church people all over Georgia to speak their convictions concerning legislation which would affect the moral and spiritual well-being of the people.

New Subscription Rates

SINGLE SUBSCRIPTION—1 year, \$1.50

GROUP SUBSCRIPTIONS—four or more from any one church, 1 year, \$1.25.

SPECIAL RATES for all convention, conference, association meetings, and all rallies of Pilgrim Fellowship, laymen and women, and summer retreats and conferences will continue to be at \$1.00 each for a year.

PROPOSED TOURS-1958

SOUTHERN TOUR — Eastern Section
April 7-19, sponsored by Missions Council; travel by Greyhound Coach; Cost \$165 - \$175; party of 22. Rev. Ralph R. Shrader, 14 Beacon St., Boston 8, Mass.

SOUTHERN TOUR — Midwest Section
April 7-22; sponsored by Missions Council; travel by Greyhound Coach; Cost \$165 - \$175; party of 22. Miss Lucille D. Frost, 19 S. LaSalle St., Chicago 3, Ill.

CARIBBEAN TOUR (April 12 - 26) sponsored by United Church Women; travel by air; cost \$405; party of 25. Mrs. James M. Evans, 175 Fifth Ave., New York 10, N. Y.

NEAR EAST TOUR (Spring 1958) sponsored by American Board; travel by air; cost est. \$1,650; party of 11. Miss Margaret R. Blemker, 14 Beacon St., Boston 8, Mass.

MID - AMERICAN TOUR (May 5-17) travel by Greyhound Coach; sponsored by Missions Council; cost \$150; party of 22. Dr. Walter C. Gierbach, 287 Fourth Ave., New York 10, N. Y.

EUROPEAN SEMINAR (July 2 - Aug 10) sponsored by Council for Christian Social Action; travel by air; cost \$1,550; party of 25. Rev. Galen R. Weaver, 287 Fourth Ave., New York 10, N. Y.

MEXICAN SEMINAR (August 8-27) sponsored by Council for Christian Social Action; travel by air; cost \$250 from Mexico City, and return; party of 25. Rev. Huber F. Klemme, 2969 W. 25th St., Cleveland 13, Ohio.

AFRICAN TOUR (Sept. 1 - Nov. 12, tentative) sponsored by Churchmen's Brotherhood E. and R. Church; travel by air; cost \$2,500; party of 16. Mr. Stanley H. Wilke, 1720 Chouteau Ave., St. Louis 3, Mo.

For general information on any of the above tours, write to Rev. Ralph R. Shrader, 14 Beacon St., Boston 8, Mass.

Three cars and at least 15 people will be going from the Southeast Convention to the Southern Christian Social Action Institute in Avon Park, Feb. 11-13. The Florida Conference reports 65 or more ministers and laymen going. With the delegates from the other two conferences, there should be around 200 people registered!

The Superintendent's Message

It strikes me as being a bit unusual to find an article on a religious subject such as "tithing" in a popular magazine with a tremendous circulation. But such an article appears in the January issue of "The Readers Digest." The article is about "modern tithing." I wish every minister and every church member in the Southeast Convention could read it. It would do us all good. As churches and denominations — really, as church members have started again to think about "tithing" and have done something about it, the results have been amazing. I can't escape the conclusion that we need to do some thinking about it. At any rate, I suggest that you read the article and share it with others.

These words are being written on the day before I leave for the "Congregational Christian Midwinter Meeting to Advance Our Christian World Mission," The Inn, Buck Hill Falls, Pa. At the meeting Congregational Christian folk from all over the country will be hearing about the accomplishments and opportunities of the groups that carry on our missionary work. There is the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions which will be discussing our ministry in other lands. Reports on new churches, revitalized churches, and various services rendered to homeland churches will be made by the various divisions of the Board of Home Missions. The Council for Social Action will tell of its activities. From the Congregational Christian service Committee we will learn of the work being carried on in the refugee and rehabilitation programs in other lands. These groups meet together as "The Missions Council," which is the agency that keeps us informed about and seeks to inspire us for "Our Christian World Mission." This is certain to be an encouraging and exciting experience.

Others from the Southeast Convention will be attending. Miss Annie Campbell has already departed, for she had an early meeting. Mrs. Arnold Slater will represent the Women's Fellowship and Art Snell the Laymen's Fellowship. Mrs. James McAdams will attend for the Georgia women. It is possible that others will go. And each will be in a position to share with our

churches their experiences and the various items of interest they will learn. Why not plan to have someone who has attended the Midwinter Meeting visit your church and talk about Our Christian World Mission?

When one goes to Buck Hill Falls there is always the possibility he will see lots of snow. The other week I saw snow in Kentucky and Tennessee. Perhaps on this trip I will see the Pocono Mountains covered with snow and the Delaware River filled with ice. If so, it will be beautiful. God truly "touches earth with beauty" even as He blesses it with fertility. Which brings me to my closing thought, returning to the theme with which we started — a quotation from Dr. Warren H. Denison.

"Many people regard their giving as an expense and make it as small as they reasonably can. What one gives to religious causes is not an expense. It is an investment — the best that one ever makes. God is a bountiful God. He multiplies spiritually and materially what we invest in His work. Behold every harvest field! It is not loving that empties the heart nor giving that empties the purse."

— James H. Lightbourne Jr.

* * *

The Superintendent's Schedule

Feb. 9 — Ashland Bethel for installation of Rev. E. M. Knight.

Feb. 10 — P. O. A. U. meeting, Atlanta.

Feb. 11-13 — Southern CSA meeting in Avon Park, Fla.

Feb. 16 — Baxley Friendship for ordination of Rev. R. N. Overstreet and Rev. T. E. Beach.

Feb. 18 — Seminar in Atlanta with Dr. Herman Reissig of CSA staff.

Feb. 22 — Laymen's Fellowship Executive Committee meeting, Atlanta.

Feb. 24 — SEC Program Committee meeting in Atlanta at 11:00 a. m.

Feb. 25-27—Religious Emphasis Week at Southern Union College.

Keep In Mind

March 15-16 — SEC Pilgrim Fellowship annual meeting in LaGrange.

April 12 — Inauguration of Walter Graham at Southern Union College.

April 19-20 — SEC annual meeting in Lanett.

Church News.....

December was a busy month for FIRST CHURCH of PHENIX CITY. On Dec. 1 an ordination service was held for the new deacons.

We had 16 laymen in attendance at the East Alabama Laymen's Rally—the second largest group present.

A joint meeting of the Laymen and Women's Fellowships highlighted the Christmas season, with a covered-dish supper and a program by Mr. and Mrs. Robert Stokes and family. Laymen brought toys and an offering was taken for a needy family.

Rev. Rudolph Starling, chairman of the Board of Deacons, has been serving as pastor at the West Point Bethel Church for more than two months.

Our church is rejoicing in the success of the Every Member Canvass, which has greatly increased offerings and resulted in a substantial increase over past years.

The Christmas program and caroling tour through the city was planned by Douglas Casey, choir director.

The third annual New Year's Eve watch night service was held, with everyone invited to join in the fellowship, food and worship service.

Fidelis Simmons,

Publicity chairman

* * *

More and more our program of worship at LANETT CHURCH is making its appeal to both our younger and older folks; our beautiful and worshipful sanctuary is making our worship more effective. The lovely altar set dedicated recently as a memorial to the late Rev. and Mrs. John O. Dollar adds to the beauty of the sanctuary, and we are grateful to the family and friends who made this possible.

Mrs. Posey Sorrell, our minister of music under the leadership of our minister, Rev. John Schofield, deserves much praise for the organization of our music department. We have a Cherub Choir, Primary Choir, Junior Choir, Youth Choir, Men's Chorus, Women's Chorus, and the Chancel Choir. Each group has a director, assistant, and accompanist.

On New Year's Eve our church was host to other Congregational Christian churches of this area, the service beginning at 9 o'clock and lasting until

the bells rang out to signify the New Year. Special music was given by each church group. At 10:30 the Men's Fellowship of Lanett Church served coffee and doughnuts to members and guests.

The Music Department of Southern Union College sang at the morning service on Jan. 10; the music department of our church served luncheon in the fellowship hall after the service.

One of the most challenging areas of our church program is our young people. We have many organizations for our youth: graded Sunday School with teachers dedicated and trained for service, Boy Scouts, Missionary Circles, Recreation, Pilgrim Fellowship, and the Youth Choir, which is directed by Miss Frances Schofield assisted by V. R. Dobson Jr., Miss Carolyn French and Charles Sorrell, accompanists. The Youth Choir has charge of music for both services on each fourth Sunday.

We are seeking to provide better churchmanship, and we have several young men and women in our church who can fill any pulpit with credit to the church and to themselves.

The young people are grateful to Mr. Schofield for the interest shown in them. Results are most gratifying. To show their appreciation they made it possible for Mr. Schofield to take time out for a coffee break in his office on cold mornings by presenting him with a percolator for his office as a Christmas gift.

We had cottage prayer services during the last week of January, in preparation for our revival which began Feb. 2 with the Rev. Carroll Lewis of Langdale as the visiting preacher. Our minister led the singing.

Let us all resolve to give of our time and talents for the work of our Master, and be mindful of our duties at all times.

—Mrs. Reid Kent, reporter

* * *

BIRMINGHAM PILGRIM CHURCH observed Youth Week on Jan. 26 with the Pilgrim Fellowship in charge of the morning worship service. "My Rights" were discussed, from the point of view of "What Teen-agers have a right to expect from Parents," and "What Parents have a right to expect from Teen-

agers." The day emphasized the role of youth in the church, the responsibility of the church and community to youth, the training of youth for Christian citizenship, and the preparation of youth for Christian service.

A City-wide Leadership Training School was held Jan. 26-30, sponsored by the Birmingham Sunday School Council. Courses offered were: "The Life of Christ," "How to Read and Study the Bible," "The Church and Camping," "Understanding and Working with Youth," "Guiding Children in Christian Growth," and others.

Taking Dr. Truman Douglas at his word, in his address to the national laymen's meeting, Pilgrim Church called a meeting of the men of the church on Jan. 29 to discuss the possibility of activating the Laymen's Fellowship.

To observe Brotherhood during February, Attorney E. M. Friend, Jr., an outstanding Jewish layman, was invited to speak on "Brotherhood" at the family night dinner.

Officers elected at the annual meeting on Jan. 15, and installed on Feb. 2, were: Clerk, Dr. Locke White, Jr.; Treasurer, Robert P. Hunter; Custodian, James B. Stout; Auditor, Mrs. J. H. Veasey. Elected to the Board of Deacons: Leonard Johnson, E. Fred Andregg, Edgar Turner, Mrs. Charles H. Vaughn, Sr. Elected to the Board of Trustees: C. Walter Emery, J. Harry Veasey, Charles O. Glasscock, Mrs. G. H. Gray.

—from church newsletter

* * *

An informal group met each day, Jan. 20-24, at CHATTANOOGA PILGRIM CHURCH for lunch to discuss The Lord's Prayer — its meaning and interpretation. The week was planned as a part of spiritual life development of laymen and laywomen.

This progress was the outgrowth of a talk made to the Laymen's Fellowship by Walter A. Graham, formerly national secretary of laymen and now president of Southern Union College. Dr. Graham urged more active participation by laymen in the church and earnest study on the part of laymen to learn more about worship, prayer and spirituality, and "to put faith in action." He recommended that groups meet regularly in an attempt to study such material as The Sermon on the Mount, the Lord's Prayer, etc., and suggested books

to be used.

Mrs. Fred Muhleman purchased the books he recommended and studied them carefully. The following Sunday she summarized these books in her presentation to the Keese Bible Class. She spoke briefly on "Laymen at Work," "Predicament of Modern Man," "Your Other Vocation," and "The Sermon on the Mount." The Keese Bible Class felt that our people could greatly benefit by such inspirational study and out of this desire to know more about a more spiritual way of life the meetings during Jan. 20-24 were planned.

Each day one petition of the Lord's Prayer was studied, and several sources of information were available. The group met, ate, and studied together in an effort to find personal inspiration and challenge to be "laymen at work in our own church."

—from church bulletin

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THE NASHVILLE BROOKMEADE CHURCH will observe Social Action Emphasis Month during February with the following program: Feb. 2, PF showing of the film, "Measure of a Moment"; Feb. 9, discussion on Mental Health and Religion; Feb. 16, program on Juvenile Delinquency with showing of film, "The High Wall"; Feb. 21, program on Senior Citizens at the Laymen's Fellowship dinner. In March there will be a Sunday evening program on Counseling and in April on Family Relations. The public is invited to these meetings.

New officers elected by the church Social Action Committee on Jan. 13 are: Chairman, Dr. Gus K. Bell; Vice-chairman, Mrs. R. H. Miller; Secretary, Miss Eula Gould.

—from church bulletin

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At COLUMBUS UNITED CHURCH the Men's Club and the Women's Fellowship together filled three bushel baskets with groceries for needy families, and 12 children were given shoes, socks, clothing, and games. Another family was given money to pay for badly needed medicine. The Sunday School had a Christmas program and gave out 100 sacks of fruit, nuts, and candy.

The Women's Fellowship enjoyed the December meeting, with Miss Annie Campbell as guest speaker.

The Stuart Bible Class gave a cor-sage to Mrs. Myrtice Etheridge for

bringing in the most new members during December.

—Ruth Ward, reporter

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Copies of letters sent out by the Finance Committee of LANGDALE CHURCH were received by the SEC office, and we want to share with all of you some excerpts: (Thomas Miles, chairman, with Walt Crutchfield, Hoyt Bradford, Charlie Will Johnson, Clarence Lauderdale, Odell Yancey, and Hugh Hull)

"We hope you can be on the Finance Committee sometime. It is a joy when people show a genuine interest in the work of Christ's Kingdom — BUT it is another story when they are religious in every way except when it comes to giving money for the work of the church. To do His work today requires financial means. Jesus said, 'For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.' He doesn't expect anyone alone to bear all the load, but He does expect everyone to do his share. This is the meaning of Christian Stewardship.

"Some people give to the church like they: (1) Leave a tip — it is an extra like they give a waitress for good service; (2) Buy a theatre ticket — this is the entertainment level of giving. People pay when they come like they would for a show; (3) Pay a year's dues. They give because it costs so much to belong — the same dues every year.

"The Christian way to give to the church is found in 1 Cor. 16:2: 'Upon the first day of the week, let every one of you lay by him in store as God hath prospered him.' First day, regularly, every week; Each one, individually, every one of his own pledge; Has prospered, proportionately, a proportion of one's income. Receiving more, one should give more.

"We trust our year together will be a blessed one. As we each do our part in the work of the church we pray that we may be drawn closer together and also that we may be drawn closer to our Loving Heavenly Father."

From another letter: "There are some people who refuse to give through the envelopes. One has even said, 'I give liberally but I don't want anybody but the Lord knowing what I give.' As you can see (year's receipts listed) our loose offerings amounted to only \$8.40 a week last year. We have 132 families in our church. Last year 78 families

North Alabama Report

Since the resignation of Rev. Elmer Smith, who served MT. LEBANON CHURCH faithfully for 12 years, the pastor-at-large is serving, ad interim, holding services once each month. It is hoped that this is only a temporary arrangement and that a resident pastor can be secured before the year is out.

On Dec. 15 the pastor-at-large visited FAIRVIEW CHURCH at Hackleburg, bringing both the morning and evening messages at the invitation of the pastor, the Rev. Earnest Shelton. Two film-strips were shown after the evening service. Fairview has a fine group of young people as well as adults and is making steady progress. This is the Rev. Raymond Berry's home church, and he brought the message there Christmas evening.

CADDO CHURCH had its Christmas program on Dec. 22nd. In the morning the pastor, Brother Earnest Shelton, brought the Christmas sermon, after which gifts were exchanged. In the evening Mrs. Eva Shelton and Mrs. Estelle Armour presented a fine program with 40 children taking part. After this the pastor showed two Christmas film-strips. Caddo is a high potential church and something is contributed each week to the growing building fund; several members are tithing. Two worship services are held each month, the pastor-at-large bringing the message on the first Sunday and the pastor on the 4th.

The inspiring example of UNION GROVE CHURCH, under the fulltime leadership of the Rev. Robert Shelton, is a challenge to all of us.

—Guy L. Colbert, pastor-at-large

Resolution

On Sunday morning, Dec. 22, Mount Lebanon Church unanimously passed the following resolution:

"Whereas, the Rev. Elmer Smith has resigned as pastor of Mt. Lebanon Church, having served as our pastor continuously and faithfully for 12 years, we therefore unanimously adopt this resolution of appreciation and heartily recommend him to whatever field God may call him. Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be sent to the SOUTHEAST NEWS."

gave \$218.24 per week through the envelopes. The other 54 families gave \$8.40 per week in loose offerings, a total of \$437.12 for the year!"

North Alabama PF Officers

At the rally held at Haleyville Union Grove Church on Jan. 19, district PF officers were elected: President, Robert Saunders of Birmingham; Vice-president, Kerry Butler of Cullman; Secretary - Treasurer, Diane Kretz - schmar of Garden City; Faith Chairman, Ann Turner of Birmingham; Action Chairman, Charlotte Smith of Haleyville; Fellowship Chairman, Dorothy Burton of Cullman.

North Alabama is one of the few areas in the Southeast Convention where there are E. & R. Churches — two of them, St. Johns in Cullman and United in Birmingham. It is interesting to note that the young people electing two of their officers from the E. & R. church. For several years the E. & R.s have been cooperating with the CCs in women's fellowship and youth work. The UNITED CHURCH is really in effect in this area.

Marvin Alexander Pollard

On New Year's morning 1958 the Rev. Marvin Alexander Pollard slipped away from his new home near Liberty, N. C., to his Heavenly Home. He went quietly as he had lived and worked.

Born near Wedowee, Ala., on Sept. 5, 1895, he attended Noonday Church, where he was licensed to preach in 1921 and ordained by the late Rev. John Dollar in 1923. In 1922 he moved to North Carolina and attended Elon College.

Most of his ministerial life was given to the Western N. C. Conference which he served not only as a pastor but also as its secretary and president.

On Feb. 9, 1919, he married Lillian Moore. Their three surviving children are Mrs. Howard Humble of Liberty, N. C., Ocie of Greensboro, N. C., and Lankford of Jacksonville, Fla. His brother Artis lives in Burlington, N. C., and brother Dumas at Wedowee, Ala. Roanoke, Ala., is the home of his sisters, Mrs. Paschal Brown, Mrs. Howard Johnson, and Mrs. Hoyt Waldrop.

Funeral services were conducted by Rev. Martin Fogleman and Rev. Lacy M. Presnell, both of whom Mr. Pollard helped to ordain.

Christian Education Notes

There will be a big meeting soon! Would you like to go? The National Conference on Christian Education meets Aug. 19-22 at Purdue University, Lafayette, Ind. If you are serving your church in the field of Christian Education (as teacher, SS staff member, member of board of Christian Education, youth advisor, minister, director, officer of one of the fellowships) or if you are interested in Christian Education, you can learn much and help your church to grow by attending this meeting. Your minister has further information about it. We hope that many will attend from the Southeast Convention. Let's fill a car and go!

The field of LEADERSHIP TRAINING is wide open! There has been a concern on the part of many ministers and church members that some type of leadership training be set up in our Convention. Your Christian Education Committee hopes to get such a program underway by this fall. The plan is this: to have several Leadership Training schools in various areas where several churches can participate together; to give courses for which you will receive credit from the national Division of Christian Education; to give the courses you need, taught by ministers and other leaders. WILL YOU HELP US to plan these schools? Let us know what courses you would like to see taught. (Methods of teaching, missionary education, the pupils we teach, vacation Bible school, youth work, Bible study, how to teach the Bible to children, etc.) Send us your suggestions for courses and for leaders whom you feel might teach courses. Please help us so that we may help you. Let's work together.

(Send your suggestions to Miss Campbell or Mrs. Raymond W. Berry.)

—Shirley N. Berry, chairman
SEC Christian Education Committee

Church News, Cont. . . .

The Women's Fellowship of HALEYVILLE UNION GROVE CHURCH met Dec. 16 at the home of Mrs. Nora Dell Hill. Carol singing, prayer, the busi-

PF Presidents To Meet

There is to be a committee meeting of the District Presidents of Pilgrim Fellowship in the SEC on Sunday, Feb. 23, at Lanett Church. This group will act as a nominating committee for the SEC Pilgrim Fellowship officers and commission chairmen, and will also form a suggested budget and work on PF goals. V. R. Dobson, SEC PF president, will act as chairman.

Any and all PFers have been asked to send in any suggestions to him for consideration of the committee when it meets.

Selection of officers is always important, but even more so this year, as the chairmen of the commissions will be three of the four delegates to attend the National PF Meeting in New York, June 20-27. We are requested by the national officers to send our chairmen so they will be in a position to use the knowledge gained. It is supposed that the president elected will have first chance to be the fourth delegate.

In suggesting names for commission chairmen, keep in mind that it should be someone who will be willing to attend the Summer Conference in his state and work with the commission in his area, and also to visit rallies. It will be difficult for the committee meeting in Lanett to decide on a slate of officers to present to delegates at LaGrange on March 15-16. Please help them by listing the qualifications and the reasons you think a certain person should be considered. Give this your prayerful attention.

—Annie R. Campbell

ness meeting and the Christmas story beautifully told by Mrs. Hill completed the program. Gifts were exchanged, and Mrs. Robert Shelton, our minister's wife, was presented with a new coat.

Plans were discussed for raising money to complete the new parsonage.

Refreshments ended a delightful meeting enjoyed by all.

—Mrs. Mamie Bridges, secretary